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NEWQUAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1953.



J.G.S. TURNER, M.B.
D.P.H.



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To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Newquay.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1953.

The prevailing conditions have been generally satisfactory, and there has been a relative absence of serious infectious diseases.

The major need of the town is for a water carriage sewage system to deal with the eastern and developing end of the town and to replace the overworked existing treatment works.

Thanks are due to Mr. Pickering and his Staff for their excellent work throughout the year. Thanks are due also to Mr. Lee, the Clerk, and to the other Council Officers for co-operation and help.

I wish to record my gratitude to Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,

J.G.S. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

- AREA. (In Acres) 5,290. The District consists of the Town of Newquay with a surrounding District entirely Rural in character. Agriculture and Dairy Farming are the main industries. The Town is a very popular sea-side resort with fine amenities.
- POPULATION The Registrar General has estimated the population for mid year 1953 to be 9,760 an increase of 29 from that of 1952. During the summer months there is an increase due to visitors who then greatly exceed the residents in number.
- INHABITED HOUSES According to the Rate Book the number of inhabited houses in the area was 2973, the rateable value being £127,464 which produces approximately £531 for a penny rate.
- CLIMATE As in previous years I am indebted to Mr. F.J. Harris for the following climatic information : The mean Maximum and Minimum temperatures for the year were 56.3 and 46.0 degrees F respectively. There were 1769.8 hours of sunshine which represents 38% of the possible. The following Table gives the Monthly rainfall for 1953

January	0.78 Inches	July	4.19 Inches
February	1.71 "	August	1.74 "
March	0.83 "	September	3.36 "
April	2.40 "	October	2.57 "
May	2.01 "	November	2.08 "
June	1.97 "	December	1.39 "

Total 25.03 inches.

Deviation from normal -8.75 inches. Third driest year on record. There was one day with snow eight with hail : two thunderstorms : twenty four of fog and fifteen with hoar frost. Above 67.5 degrees 15 days : Above 76.5 degrees Nil.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area	5,290 Acres
Population	9,760
Number of inhabited houses	2,973
Rateable Value	£127,464
Product of Penny Rate	£531

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	Rate per 1000 Population. <u>Newquay.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Legitimate.	74	45	123	12.6	
Illegitimate.	2	2			

For comparison with other Areas corrected
for age and sex distribution.

11.8 15.5

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	Rate per 1000 Population <u>Newquay.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Legitimate.	0	1	1	0.10	0.35
Illegitimate.	0	0			

DEATHS (All Causes
and all ages)

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	Rate per 1000 Population <u>Newquay.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
	44	52	96	9.84	

For comparison with other Areas corrected
for age and sex distribution.

7.58 11.4
Rate per 1000 Population
Newquay England & Wales

MATERNAL DEATHS.Females.

0

0.0 0.76

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGEInfant Mortality

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>	Rate per 1000 Population <u>Newquay</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Legitimate.	4	1	5	40.6	26.8
Illegitimate.	0	0			

DEATHS UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGEDue to Enteritis & Diarrhoea

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	Rate per 1000 Population <u>Newquay.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
	0	0	0	0.0	1.1

There are wide fluctuations from year to year in some of the rates shown owing to the small numbers being considered. A five year average shows that Newquay has a favourable mortality experience compared with the United Kingdom.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Diseases.	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases.	-	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	1	-	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus)	-	-	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	-	-	-
13. Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	-	1	1
14. Other Malignant Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	3	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.	1	1	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	5	8
18. Coronary Disease Angina	4	4	8
19. Hypertention with Heart Disease	3	2	5
20. Other Heart Diseases.	7	13	20
21. Other Circulatory Diseases.	3	2	5
22. Influenza.	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia.	-	1	1
24. Bronchitis.	2	2	4
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
26. Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, & Diarrhoea.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations.	1	-	1
32. Other defined and Ill-defined Diseases	7	14	21
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
34. All other Accidents	-	-	-
35. Suicide	-	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
<hr/>			
	44	52	96
<hr/>			

The following Table gives the percentage distribution of age at death.

Age Group.	Percentage dying in each Age Group	
	Males	Females
0 - 1 yr	9.1	1.9
1 - 59 yrs	29.5	9.6
60-69 yrs	18.2	11.6
70-79 yrs	22.7	32.7
80-89 yrs	18.2	40.3
Over 90 yrs	2.3	3.9

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS
UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Cause	Age of Child in Weeks						
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	5 - 52.	Total.
Prematurity.	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Hydrocephalus & Meningocoele	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Broncho Pneumonia & Subdural Haemorrhage.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	2	1	-	-	-	2	5

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. Medical Officer of Health	J.G.S. Turner M.B. D.P.H.
2. Sanitary Inspectors	F. Pickering, C.R.S.I.
	G.M. Lawry, C.R.S.I.,
	(Until September 1953.)

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro where all material for investigation is sent.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLACTICS

In addition to the supplies of diphtheria prophylactics previously available, supplies of Whooping Cough prophylactic both by itself, and in combination with that for diphtheria, are available at the Area Health Office, St Austell, and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners as required.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Staff consists of three male drivers and one female. There is one ambulance and one utilicon. Whilst this is sufficient for the winter months it does not provide enough cover during the holiday season when the population is trebled and there is an increase in the accident rate.

All cases where arrangements can be made beforehand are now dealt with by Truro, and the local ambulance deals only with local calls and emergencies during the summer months.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to give every assistance and to it and to No 6 Detachment of the British Red Cross Society thanks are due. Thanks are also due to Mrs Bellingham, the Organiser of the Hospital Car Service and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provide transport on request.

NURSING SERVICE.

The establishment was as follows :

Health Visitors	1½
General nursing & midwifery	2

DOMICILIARY
MIDWIFERY

Approximately 60% of all births occur at home. All Midwives have now attended a course in gas/air analgesia, and are supplied with the equipment.

INFANT
WELFARE

A Clinic is held weekly and the attendance has averaged 23.7 . Health education is carried out.

DOMESTIC HELP
SERVICE

A total of 40 persons were helped, of whom 10 were maternity cases. There is a growing demand for this service which is difficult to satisfy owing to competitive demands from Hotels and Cafes. Thanks are due to Mrs. Davey who has arranged this service.

HOSPITALS.

The only hospital in the area is the Newquay Hospital which deals with general medical and surgical cases. Maternity cases are sent to Redruth and Infectious Diseases requiring special treatment and isolation go to Truro. The Royal Cornwall Infirmary is available for specialist investigation.

CLINICS

The following clinics were held at places and dates indicated.

Child Welfare	Ambulance Hall	Weekly - Thursday
Orthopaedic	Hospital	Weekly - Monday
Ante-Natal	Hospital	Weekly - Monday
Tuberculosis	Hospital	1st, 3rd, 5th, Tuesday
Ophthalmic	Hospital	By Arrangement
Ear, Nose & Throat	Hospital	2nd, 4th Tuesday.
Dental	Berry Road	

SECTION C.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER

The Urban District is supplied by the Newouay & District Water Company, and the supply is obtained from the following sources :

- (a) Mine shafts at Toldish and Parka with an intake at St Columb Road. The latter supply is chlorinated at source to provide for consumers en route to Cosworth. The mine supplies gravitate to Raw Water Reservoir at Cosworth from which the supply to the Town is filtered through pressure filters and given chlorine treatment.
- (b) Supply from Trewollack mine shaft is filtered and treated on these works before passing to storage at Fairpark, a supplementary supply is available from Cosworth, being treated at the same plant.
- (c) Supply from the Porth stream is filtered and treated at the Rialton Works, thus passing to Fairpark to supply.
- (d) An occasional supply from Mount Wise mine shaft is chlorinated when in use.

During the year there were complaints of excessive chlorine in the water. Action by the Company in providing increased storage facilities has reduced the frequency of these complaints.

The Company has installed additional pumping plant at Rialton to enable consumption to be met during the peak demands in the summer.

The water has no potential plumbo solvent action.

Accurate figures are not available but more than 3,000 dwellings are connected to the mains.

Results of analyses of samples of water may be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report attached.

DRAINAGE
& SANITATION

The routine testing and inspection of drains and sewers has been carried out, and the results are to be found in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector. The undermentioned sewage works were inspected during the year (these works are under the control of the Surveyor's Department and are also inspected at intervals by Officers of the County Council.)

1. Gust-veor
2. St. Columb Porth
3. Fernpit, Pentire
4. Trencreek
5. St. Columb Minor
6. Crantock

The St Columb Porth system is still unsatisfactory despite the fact that some work has been done to extend the outfall into the sand on the beach. At certain seasons of the year the height of the sand is lower than the end of the pipe and the effluent flows on to the beach.

The Gusti-veor system is seriously overloaded and the new houses at Doublestiles have increased the flow.

Fernpit still discharges sewage into the Gannel and the land semi-treatment works at Trencreek and St. Columb Minor are very bad.

Ponding on the beach at Crantock from the sewage works effluent and stream still exist

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government held a public enquiry into the Council's plans to improve the sewerage of the town, and it is to be hoped that authority will be given to proceed with the work in the near future. The proposals include plans to sewer most of the areas which at present are served by cesspits and to eliminate the land treatment works at St. Columb Minor and the present method of disposal at St. Columb Porth. The works at Gusti-veor would be improved.

DISINFECTION This is carried out as required.

RIVERS & STREAMS There is still pollution of Trenance stream from Gusti-veor and Trencreek sewage works and seepage from the old Refuse Tip.

CLOSET
ACCOMMODATION Practically all dwellinghouses in the area are on the water Carriage system.

PUBLIC
CLEANSING Collection and disposal of refuse is under the charge of the Council's Surveyor.

The tip at Trevenson is now discontinued and a new tip has been found in a Quarry at Gusti-veor. Much money is being spent on providing sand as a covering material for this tip, and in the end the Council (after paying rent for it) have improved a property which must be handed back to the Owner. It would be better policy if the Council were to buy and improve derelict land for use as playing fields at a later date.

LITTER.

During the season there is a great deal of litter in the streets owing chiefly to carelessness on the part of the public. Litter baskets are very numerous.

SECTION D.HOUSING.

There is still a shortage of housing accommodation with an active list of 305 families, details of which are as follows :

- (a) Number without separate houses 133 (+ 30 in Huts &
+ 28 in Caravans)
- (b) Number of unmarried persons 6
- (c) Number of persons with separate houses which are :
 - (1) Unfit 2
 - (2) Overcrowded 7
- (d) Number requiring houses for other reasons :
eg. nearer work, tied houses, Notice etc 56

The classification of Houses required as follows :

One Bedroom Type	12
Two Bedroom Type	164
Three Bedroom Type	34
Four Bedroom Type	7

The Council now own 305 permanent houses, 20 Prefabs and 37 Hutments.

During the year 1953, 39 Three Bedroom Type Houses, and 25 Two Bedroom Type Houses were erected.

In addition 41 houses were built by private enterprise.

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected.	159	407	624	1732	395
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcase condemned	4	1	-	19	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	60	79	5	158	16
% of number inspected affected with some disease other than T.B.	40.25	19.66	0.96	1.02	5.56
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u> Whole Carcases condemned	2	2	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	19	1	-	16
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	13.20	8.84	0.16	-	4.05

There was no Cysticercus Bovis found.

CANNED FOODS ETC. CONDEMNED

The undermentioned unsound food was inspected, voluntarily surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

Fruit	665 Tins	Meat	169 Tins
Fish	29 "	Milk ,.....	49 "
Soup	9 "	Conserves	4 "
Jam	1 Tin	Wet Fish	71 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Sugar	40 lbs	Barley	1 Can
Ducks	6	Meat	40 lbs
Vegetables	263 Tins		

MILK

There are now 7 Retailers, not producers, registered with the Council Regular inspections are carried out of vehicles and premises.

ICE CREAM

The routine testing of samples of ice-cream during the summer season gave satisfactory results.

The following results were obtained :-

<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>
36	12	1	-

Lectures were given to various Bodies on Clean Food by the Sanitary Inspector. They were welcomed and well attended

Further information relating to the inspection of Hotels, Restaurants and Food Preparing Premises will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of Infectious Diseases were received.

Disease.	No. of Cases 1953.	Rate per 1000 Population.		
		Newquay. 1952.	1953.	England & Wales. 1953.
Scarlet Fever	11	0.2	1.1	1.39
Measles	251	2.3	25.7	12.36
Pneumonia	1	0.2	0.1	0.84
Dysentery	3	0.2	0.3	-
Chicken Pox	36	0.2	3.7	-
Whooping Cough	16	1.5	1.6	3.58
Food Poisoning	1	0.1	0.1	0.24

Apart from the biennial outbreak of measles there has been a comparative absence of infectious disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table gives the state of immunisation of the child population.

Number of children at 31st December 1953 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e at any time since 1st January 1939.)

Age at 31.12.53. ie. born in 1953	Under 1 1953	1-4 1952-49	5-9 1948-44	10-14 1943-39	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) A. 1949-1953	8	276	345	244	873
B. 1948 or earlier	-	-	293	108	401
C. Estimated mid year child population	130	498	607	488	1728
Immunisation index $\frac{A}{C} \times 100$	5.9	55.0	56.8	50.0	50.5

During the year whooping cough vaccine was made available both alone and in combination with diphtheria vaccine. The numbers immunised for the first time during the year were as follows :-

Diphtheria vaccine alone 7.
" " + Whooping Cough 81.

In addition boosting doses were given as follows :-

Diphtheria alone 73
" + Whooping Cough 16

It will be seen that the immune state of the children is still far from satisfactory although the true figures are probably better than indicated as some doctors do not submit adequate returns.

Immunisation can be readily obtained by application to the family doctor or to the Welfare Clinic. Booster doses are given either by the family doctor, or the school doctor at the age of 5 and 9 years.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths for the year 1953.

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 yr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 yrs	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -24 yrs	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 yrs	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 44 yrs	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 yrs	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 64 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	3	-	-	-	2	-	-

16.

In addition to the above the following transfers and recoveries were recorded.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Transfers In	1	3	-	-
Transfers Out	10	2	1	-
Recoveries	1	1	-	-

During the year 64 persons, mainly children have been given B.C.G. vaccinations.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

1. Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notice	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1). Factories in which sections 1,2,3,&6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	15	30	-	-
(2). Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	57	9	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers Premises)	-	-	-	-
	72	29	-	-

DEFECTS.

	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	No. cases in which proceedings were instituted
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences	-	-	-	-	-
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Not separate for Sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

